

REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the thorough review of the present application as reflected in the Official Action mailed December 8, 2004. Applicants have amended the specification to provide the serial numbers of the related applications. Applicants submit that the claims are patentable over the cited references for the reasons discussed below.

The Information Disclosure Statement

Applicants wish to bring to the Examiner's attention an Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) that is being filed concurrently with the present Amendment. Applicants request that the Examiner return an initialed copy of the PTO-1449 form submitted with this IDS.

The Anticipation Rejection

Claims 1-13, 15-17, 20-32, 34-36, 39-51 and 53-55 stand rejected as anticipated under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) by United States Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0016926A1 to Nguyen et al. (hereinafter "Nguyen"). The present application was filed January 17, 2001. Nguyen published February 7, 2002, was filed April 26, 2001 and claims priority from Provisional Application Serial No. 60/199,984 filed April 27, 2000 (hereinafter "the '984 application"). Pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 119(e), the Nguyen reference is only entitled to the filing date of the provisional application to the extent that the provisional application enables the materials recited therein under the standard of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. § 112. *See New Railhead Mfg., L.L.C. v. Vermeer Mfg. Co.*, 298 F.3d 1290, 1294, (Fed. Cir. 2002). Because Nguyen was filed after the filing date of the present application, the cited portions of Nguyen only qualify as prior art against the present application if support for the cited portions of Nguyen is found in the provisional application.

Attached hereto at Tab A is a copy of Provisional Application Serial No. 60/199,984 from which Nguyen claims priority. This copy of the Provisional Application was obtained through the Public PAIR system. The Official Action relies on Figures 1, 8a, 8b, 9 and 10 and paragraphs 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 36, 39, 86, 92, 93, 95 and 101, 104, 105, 118 of Nguyen in rejecting the claims of the present application.

As a review of the '984 application makes clear, most of the relied upon portions of

Nguyen do not appear to be present in the '984 application. For example, Figures 1, 8a, 8b, 9 and 10 do not appear to be present in the '984 application. Likewise, portions of paragraph 104 appears to be present in the '984 application, however, paragraphs 39, 86, 92, 93 and 95 do not appear to be present in the '984 application.

In light of the above discussion, Applicants submit that portions of Nguyen relied on in the Official Action are not found in the '984 application nor does it appear that any relevant technical description is provided that would disclose or suggest all of the technical subject matter relied on in the Official Action. Accordingly, Applicants submit that many of the cited portions of Nguyen may only be accorded a filing date of April 26, 2001. As such, many of the cited portions of Nguyen were filed after the priority date of the present application and, therefore, do not constitute prior art to the present application. Applicants, therefore, request withdrawal of the present rejections based on the cited portions of Nguyen.

With regard to the "Examiner's note" at page 19 of the Official Action, given the paucity of disclosure in the '984 application on which Nguyen is based, if the present rejection is maintained, Applicants request that the Examiner explain how the three paragraphs and single figure of the '984 application anticipates the claims of the present application or otherwise provides support for the relied on portions of Nguyen. Furthermore, given the brevity of disclosure in the '984 application and the length of the Nguyen reference, Applicants have not made a complete paragraph by paragraph comparison between the '984 application and the Nguyen reference as Applicants submit that the '984 application does not anticipate any of the claims of the present application. For example, to the extent that the '984 application can be understood, it does not appear to describe security processing for a plurality of hosts that use a common network address as recited in Claim 1. Likewise, the recitations of Claim 10 also do not appear to be disclosed in the '984 application.

The Obviousness Rejections

Claims 14, 18, 19, 33, 37, 38, 52, 56 and 57 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as obvious in light of Nguyen and United States Patent No. 5,754,856 to Klein (hereinafter "Klein"). Official Action, p. 15. Applicants submit that these claims are patentable at least as depending from a patentable base claim as discussed above.

Conclusion

In light of the above discussion, Applicants submit that the claims of the present application are patentable over Nguyen and, therefore, request allowance of the present application and passage of the present application to issue.

Respectfully submitted,



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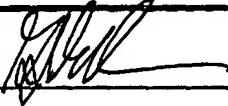
PROVISIONAL APPLICATION FOR PATENT COVER SHEET

This is a request for filing a PROVISIONAL APPLICATION FOR PATENT under 37 CFR 1.53(c).

JC541 U.S. PRO
60/19984
04/27/00

| INVENTOR(S) | | | | | |
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| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Additional Inventors are being named on the ONE (1) separately numbered sheets attached hereto. | | | | | |
| TITLE OF THE INVENTION (280 characters max) | | | | | |
| AUTOMATIC IPSEC TUNNEL ADMINISTRATION | | | | | |
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| ENCLOSED APPLICATION PARTS (check all that apply) | | | | | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Specification Number of Pages | 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> Small Entity Statement | | | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Drawing(s) Number of Sheets | 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify) <input type="text"/> | | | |
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Respectfully submitted,

SIGNATURE 

Date 4/25/00

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Number 2 of 2



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**AUTOMATIC IPSEC TUNNEL
ADMINISTRATION**

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

See attached Appendix A.

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BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

See attached Appendix A.

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SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

See attached Appendix A.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG 1 schematically illustrates a communications network implementing the automatic IPSEC tunneling administrator according to the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

See attached Appendix A.

ABSTRACT

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See attached Appendix A.

APPENDIX A

Automatic IPSEC Tunnel Administration

FIELD OF INVENTION

The present invention is directed to secure communications networks. In particular, the present invention is directed to a method of providing automatic configuration and management of IPSEC Security Associations (SA).

SUMMARY OF INVENTION

The present invention is a method used in conjunction with network security devices from Fortress Technologies' Automatic Tunneling Administration (ATA) products. Details on ATA technology is documented elsewhere, and will not be discussed in detail. It is sufficient to say that ATA has been modified with functionality that allows Fortress Technologies IPSEC implementations to derive the necessary configuration information from the ATA hub. This means that the system administrator, or security officer, is only required to enter the Virtual Private LAN (VPLAN) configuration at the hub. In addition to hub configuration, the administrator is only required to configure each peer with information to reach the hub. The ISAKMP (Internet Security Association and Key Management Protocol) SAs and IPSEC SAs will be automatically established, using Pre-Shared or Public Keys for authentication. When using the Pre-Shared Key method of authentication, each member of the VPLAN will automatically generate the shared keying material, which eliminate the logistics of distribution and management of Pre-Shared keys.

DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING

Fig. 1 illustrates a communications network implementing the automatic IPSEC tunneling administrator according to the present invention. Notice that the IPSEC gateways are also capable of interfacing with SPS members of the virtual LAN. The drawing also shows an optional X.509V3 certificate server. The certificate server can be used to support automatic distribution and management of public keys, which is one alternative to the Pre-Shared method of authentication as described in IETF's industry standards for IPSEC.

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ABSTRACT

Described is a method used in conjunction with Fortress Technologies network security devices to provide security services using industry standard IPSEC protocols. The uniqueness of this method is in the technique used to provide IPSEC services in a fully automatic mode, using one of several industry standards for authentication such as Pre-Shared Keys or Public Keys. This is accomplished by enhancements applied to Fortress Technologies' (ATA) products, and by other external means used to extract the necessary configuration information needed to establish and maintain IPSEC secured tunnels automatically. The configuration information needed to establish IPSEC Security Associations (SA) is derived on the fly from a VLAN hub. When the Pre-Shared Key method of authentication is used, each member of the VLAN automatically generate the keying material.

Automatic IPSEC Tunnel Administrator

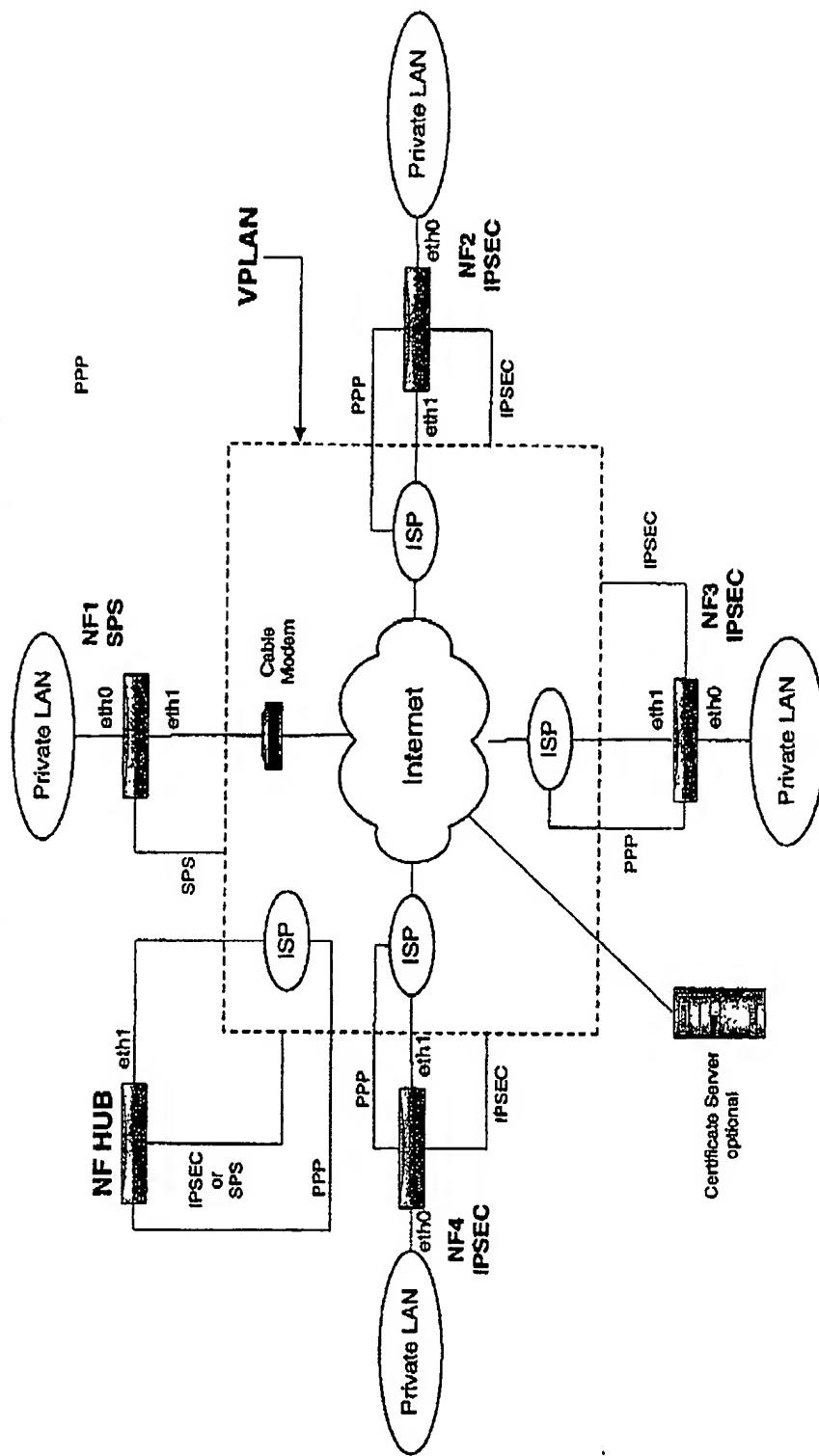


FIG 2